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MESSAGE FROM M.E.

Gerry (KC4EHT), Managing Editor

As most of you know, matters of publishing require one to think and write a month in advance. Here I sit, wanting to convey my heartfelt wishes for the coming Christmas holidays when Thanksgiving doesn't arrive until next week. Sort of like a football player trying to psyche himself up for the Super Bowl on the first game of the regular season.

I truly thank all of you for your wonderful response as I wrap up 1993 and you have given me the spark to make 1994 an even better year. I wish each and everyone the best of happiness and holidays.

Now to a "just-in-case" situation. **FLORIDA SKIP** is in the process of changing our subscription data base location and method. Although we don't anticipate any problems, can I safely say that none will occur? I think not but I just in case, I beg for your patience and cooperation as we try to streamline things. I would anticipate a few days delay in your magazine arrival date until we iron out any bugs.

I have received a large number of calls and letters from readers asking for us to list contact persons and phone numbers for hamfests and flea markets. I agree, it should be included but the information submitted to Bill, KB4VOL, our Data Editor, in most cases does not include this information. I am trying to figure out the best way to rectify this and probably printing this note is the first step. **APPEAL: ALL HAMFEST AND FLEA MARKET HONCHOS - PLEASE SEND ME YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER SO I CAN PUBLISH THE INFORMATION!** How was that? Everybody hear that?

Well...73 until next year. Stay cool, stay sober, drive carefully, practice your code, and get that rare DX. Now if you will excuse me, I must get outta here and go buy my daughters their Christmas presents.

//ger



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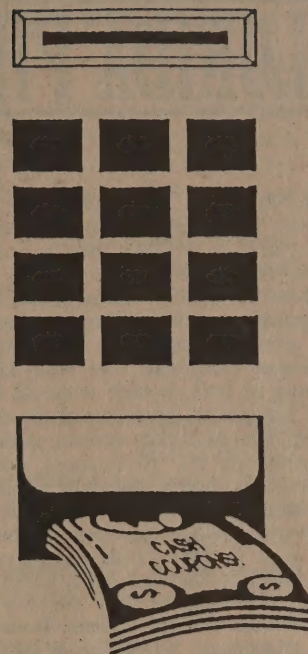
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FLORIDA PHONE NETS

Doc Staples (W4SME), Editor

FROM DOC, W4SME, FPTN NET MANAGER: Will someone please tell me where October went? The fella says, "when you're busy-TIME flidgits, or sumptin'." The Florida Phone Traffic Net which meets EVERY morning at 0655 local on 3940Khz was BUSY! Some of our members are still enjoying the fall settings outside of Florida, others are having both physical as well as rig problems! Our condolences to those that fit into these unfortunate categories! The NET looks forward to these stations returning in time to help with the Holiday traffic which will be found just around the corner of the calendar! By the time you read this the smell of Turkey cooking in the kitchen is not too many days off! Although the NET could not generate a Golden Cookie recipient this month, the daily checkin rate was 30 plus and the NET handled 15 pieces of traffic daily for a total of 462 pieces. The average NET session was 31 minutes and your message time stays at 2 minutes. With the lousy band conditions before the change back to Standard Time, KUDOS go to all those stations who toughed out the long skip, the ever-present carriers and the rain static! Eleven stations attained Honor Roll status in October with 100% attendance: WD4DAH, WA4EIC, NR2F, WA4JDH, K4KIC, KB4MON, K4SJA, W4SME, WA9VND, WB4WYG, WB4ZVD. **CONGRATULATIONS!** We are pleased this month to welcome into the NET as a new Member, K4RBR, Norm from Miami. We also welcome back Munroe, KB4FIY and Walt, WA4QXT from their summer sojourns. Traffic Tip for the Month: When conditions are LESS than optimum and you are sending traffic to a station having difficulty copying, REMEMBER--speak clearly--spell each complex word--use the Phonetic Alphabet and repeat each five word group! Error proof copy is the AIM of every FPTN Traffic Handler--do it right the FIRST time. A most happy and blessed Day of Thanksgiving.

FROM NILS, WA4NDA, FMTN NET MANAGER: The Florida Midday Traffic Net meets daily on 7247.5Khz at 1130. As part of the National Traffic System in Florida, FMTN members were very active in the South and North Florida SET Exercises on October 16 and 30. It was rewarding to listen to our veteran traffic expert K4SCL, Woody and one of our regular NCS stations, Billy, N4UF control the Net frequency during the Exercises. Few could have done it better! Our Liaisons Mort, WX4H and George, NY1H were available full time during the term of the SET! Thanks fellows for the GREAT job. Let me not forget all of the other stations that checked in and remained available during the Exercise. Birthday wishes go to Mac, WD4NFG, Scott, KM4HD, Roy, N4ADI, Bill, N4VXP, Charlie, NR2F, Billy, N4UF and Edmond, W8GRZ and I HOPE THAT EACH OF YOU WILL ENJOY MANY MORE! WA4QXT, Walt is back from his sojourn up North and the NET is glad to have him back doing his usual good job. N4ADI, Roy is back in the saddle as NCS on Thursdays now that he has the TS-120 fired up and golly his signal is as good as with his regular rig. During the month the NET enjoyed 613 checkins or almost twenty per session! There were 305 pieces of traffic handled in a total of 209 minutes or about 1.5 minutes per message. You people are GOOD- no question about it! And now that you have your pencils all sharpened it's time to get ready for the influx of SNOWBIRDS and the increase of traffic over the holidays. At about the time you will be reading this, Turkey Day will be almost here and, the traffic count will be UP! Keep up the good work and I'll see you here next month. 73/88's NILS, WA4NDA

FROM BOB, KC4ZHF SEFTN ASST. NET MGR: Southeast Florida Traffic Net meets DAILY at 6pm local on the Motorola Amateur Radio Club Repeater, 146.79 down 600 and welcomes ALL licensed Amateurs to participate. During October, SEFTN recorded 1330 stations checking into the Net with 373 pieces of traffic. This is the 73rd CONSECUTIVE month with over 1000 stations checking in! Congratulations to all of you who make the effort to attend. THANKS. During the month we are pleased to recognize 19 NEW stations checking into the Net! The 24th of October was a BANNER DAY for KD4LQG as he was the 1000th

station for the month and the 22nd for the evening session! Congratulations John! The Honor Roll for October lists KD4HGU, KD4HKS, KD4JMV, KD4LQG, KB4WBY, KD4GR and KC4ZHF. Certificates will be awarded at the Net's next PICNIC to be held on Saturday, December 11th from 12 noon until 3pm at VETERAN'S PARK, Lauderhill located on NW 50th Street west of University Drive. PLEASE make your reservations ASAP with any of the Net Officers. We need to know how many are planning to come AS WELL AS how many you are BRINGING??? Contact KD4GR-KB4WBY or KC4ZHF or you might find yourself with an empty plate-heaven forbid! Our Chief Chef will be KB4NSA and Walt, W4DWN will be in charge of Fun and Games! Ya'ALL Come, Ya'Hear. 73/88's BOB, KC4ZHF

FROM EARL, K4FQU, SWFTN NET MANAGER: The Southwest Florida Traffic Net meets Monday through Saturday on 146.88R at 10:00am and all interested licensed Amateurs are always welcome. Cooler temperatures have arrived, the SNO-Birds are flocking to the South and our checkin rate is improving each day! Although we are pretty well fixed for NCS's and backups, we sure do NEED additional LIAISON stations. Especially right now on Mondays! John, N4HAS has asked to be relieved and we must fill the spot. It's not a difficult job to perform, so some of you that have some time, let me know that you will assist by becoming a Liaison station. Thanksgiving is almost here and just around the corner is Christmas and New Years and we will DEFINITELY need help. All stations on the NET should be ready for the big increase in traffic that will take place through these Holiday periods. Whenever possible PLEASE USE the ARL message system. It will save YOU time and it WILL speed the flow of traffic in the NTS system! Remember the unwritten rule! TWENTY FIVE WORDS OR LESS! Our stats for October show 483 checkins averaging 19 per session handling 105 pieces of formal traffic in 26 sessions. For now a Happy Thanksgiving to all, 73/88's EARL, K4FQU

FROM DENNIS, KB4MON, TPTN NET MANAGER: The Tropical Phone Traffic Net meets daily at 1700 local on 3940 Khz and the NET welcomes all stations to check-in with or without formal written traffic. During October TPTN acknowledged the return of two of our regulars who were off traveling for the summer season. Eunie, W1UKR our Saturday NCS found her way back from Maine, and Walt, WA4QXT returned to the cozy confines of Casselberry to resume his NCS duties also! George, NY1H has quickly gotten himself into the thick of traffic handling and has established himself very well as our 5th Region Liaison in the absence of Andy, N4JAQ. We are eagerly awaiting Andy's return from Colorado to the NET as we sorely need the Ocala outlet. Munroe, KB4FIY has returned from NC and is now resident in Groveland. Welcome back Munroe; you're portable signal was always very readable. Nils, WA4NDA of Wewahatchka has joined TPTN and we really appreciate the outlet into the Panhandle! Nils says "NILS" means "nuthin", but we ain't believin' that! October stats indicate that we had 507 checkins who handled 223 pieces of formal traffic in the 31 sessions. Good work TEAM-that's a good warm-up for the oncoming Holiday season where your pencils will start to smoke! On the TPTN Honor Roll for October we find Larry, KO4VK and Laura, WA9VND both with 100% attendance. Incidentally, Larry has remained at 100% since August 10. **CONGRATULATIONS.** Keep in mind that the goal of TPTN is for EVERYONE to work together to handle traffic into and out of Florida and to Liaison other NTS Nets. If you would like to join TPTN, checkin any evening and send me a message with your request to join. Your presence will be most welcome and you will be glad that you did! 73/88's Dennis, KB4MON



Norm Webster, KB4EKE showing off new amp purchased at Melbourne Hamfest - Photo by W4KOG

FLORIDA CW NETS

Ed Roller (K4IA), Editor

QFNS Report by Net Manager Laura, WA9VND: October statistics: QNI 226, QTC 91 and QND 660. A big pat on the back for my loyal net control ops and liaisons, they sure make my job easy. We had a few new checkins: N5TNV, John in Texas; KM4G, Marv in Ft. Lauderdale and N4WLM, Lazaro in Miami. Thanks fellows and come back often.

We also had VIP AA4HT, Rip and N2WX, Howie grace us with their presence. We have excellent QFN and RN5 reps so give us a try. It's easy to find us on 3715KHz every night at 8:00 PM.

Gator Net Manager Dan, W4DL Writes: Andy, W4IYT attended the National QCWA Convention in Clearwater with his XYL Betty, W4GGQ and also the West Palm Beach Hamfest and saw some net members there. Mae, W3CUL and Al, W3VR had visitors from the St. Petersburg Club. They switched banks to get one closer. A Sunday storm damaged fruit trees, banged up beam rotor and they have to cut two feet off the tower. Dan, W4DL has dropped his bulletin broadcasts now available in four modes. May broadcast edited bulletins at slow code in future. Will be on St. Johns river January and March next year.

Dick, N2AOX is recovering from his car accident and his rig is working, so he checks in on Gator. George, K4JI has company that included his son and his wife. His daughter leaves Sunday for home in New Hampshire. Charley, WA4EYU is a busy man, jogs three days, YMCA 3 days and yard and house work. His XYL doing fine despite three hip and one knee replacement. Chris, N4EKC had to take time off the net to supervise repairs of porch beams.

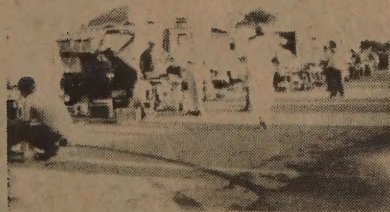
FMSN Report by John, KC4FL:

QFN Reported by Manager Don, AD4CN: The month of October was productive at my home especially in keeping my antennas and station on the air but I'm still trying to come up with a solution to put my antennas higher and spaced farther apart to improve the radiation towards Southwest Florida.

The holiday season is upon us which means a greater volume of traffic and everyone will need to step forward and help out even if you have to volunteer to go to a region, section or local net. Please don't be bashful or afraid that you cannot do as well as the experienced traffic handlers. QFN is still in need of a permanent Saturday RN5 rep and a Tuesday NCS. Please think this over and let me know as soon as possible. Happy Holidays.

Notes from K4IA: One subject touched on before yet important is the fact that one night on 4RN there can be almost no traffic, and the next night a deluge. One way to help move heavy traffic is to listen at 9:30 to 4RN on 3567 and if there are more messages listed for Florida than can be taken in the half hour before QFN, volunteer to take over just before 10 PM so that QFN does not need to wait for the assigned liaison station to copy all that traffic alone. Two stations increases the distribution efficiency. This would apply to any net.

-73, Ed, K4IA



Part of tailgate area at 1993 Melbourne Hamfest
Photo by W4KOG

FLORIDA TRAFFIC NETS

NET	FREQ	TIME(ET)
AIN - ARRL Information Net	3940	0730(SAT)
FAST/E - SFL Amateur SSB Tfc Net (Early)	3940	1800
FAST/L - SFL Amateur SSB Tfc Net (Late)	3940	2230
FMSN - FL Med Speed Tfc Net	3651/7061	1750
FMTN - FL Midday Tfc Net	7247.5	1145
FPON - FL Public Opns Net	3908	1630
FPTN - FL Phone Tfc Net	3940	0700
GN - Gator Net	3651/7061	0830
NFEN - NFL Emer Net (Mon-Sat)	3950	0900
NFPN - NFL Phone Net	3950	1830/1930
QFN/E - All FL CW Tfc Net	3651/7061	1900
QFN/L - All FL CW Tfc Net	3651	2200
QFNS - All FL Slow CW Tfc Net	3715	2000
SFAN - SFL ARES Net	3940	0800 (Sat)
TPTN - Tropical Phone Tfc Net	3940/7243	1700

Southern Florida Emergency Coordinators and ARES members should monitor 3940 or 7247 kHz in addition to their local net in the event of an emergency. The emergency operations schedule for Florida section nets will be followed if their is a section-wide emergency.

Refer to the ARRL Net Directory for a more detailed listing of local and special interest nets.

ED ROLLER, K4IA - CW CHAMP

Overall winner of CW Contest at WPB

-Special Report by Ted Herrman, AE8G

The West Palm Beach Amateur Radio Club's High Speed CW Contest was held on October 23, 1993, at the Palm Beach County Hamfest. Club officials declared the contest a modest success.

Officials received many compliments that the event had been well-planned and executed. Contestants were impressed with the amount of preparation that had gone into the contest. Contest organizers had prepared for 200 contestants at speeds up to 100 words per minute. Club officials expect attendance to increase every year because the contest is to become a feature at the annual Palm Beach County Hamfest.

K4IA, Edwin Roller was the Overall Winner by providing 2.02017 minutes of continuous errorless copy, at 41.18913 words per minute. Edwin chose to take down his copy by writing longhand with pen and paper!

W4WJ, Don Murray won the 41-80 age group class by correctly answering 88% of the 10 question multiple choice exam for the material sent at 45 WPM. The multiple choice exam was an option for everyone except the Overall Winner, who had to show at least one minute of solid hardcopy as per long-standing ARRL rules.

K4ZK, Bill Jochimsen won the Over 60 age group class by correctly answering 80% of the multiple choice exam for 35 WPM

Everyone who passed the hardcopy or written exams at 20 WPM or better was awarded a Continental Morse Code Proficiency Award. Award winners were: W4LOO, Paul Pietras (35WPM); K2QPR, J. A. Perratto (30WPM); N4PSL Carlos Justo (30WPM); KC4ECA, John Bates (30WPM); WQ3G, Dan Zuckerman (30WPM); W8DUV, Kay Anderson (25WPM); AA4CM, Miguel Enciao (25WPM); and K4PB, Alan Harp (20WPM).

A special computer program was employed to measure the

contestant's copy time to 5 decimal places. The computer program also measured contestants copy speed by two different methods, counting words as well as every dot and dash. Exactly five minutes of copy material for each speed level was sent by computer.

A special Morse code shaping electronic box was built by Ed Hare, KA1CV at ARRL Headquarters. The Hare Box sent perfect sine wave audio simultaneously to 8 pair of headphones and loudspeaker for observers.

Contest officials issue a challenge to the cw world. The world speed record set by Ted McElroy at 75.2 WPM in 1939 is still officially unbroken after 54 years. Computers are able to send code practice at speeds in excess of 100WPM. Serious competitors cannot complain about a lack of practice material. McElroy's achievement is magnificent. Can anyone top his record? To beat McElroy, one would have to provide at least 1 minute of consecutive errorless hardcopy (no multiple choice exam). Highly motivated cw ops have a year to practice for the chance to perhaps be the new NUMBER ONE!

Some interesting facts emerged from the contest:

1. Virtually all contestants used a pad of paper and pen or pencil to take down their copy. No one used a laptop computer or any other electronic or mechanical aid in getting it onto paper. Judges commented that higher speeds could have been attained if the contestants had come with laptop computers or quiet typewriters.

2. The multiple choice exam option proved very popular. Virtually every contestant used the exam as well as hardcopy to qualify at the lower speed levels. Contestants agreed that while the multiple choice exam offered another way to qualify at a given speed, it was actually a difficult option because it required the contestant to correctly copy all of facts in the entire five minute transmission.

3. There was only one contestant below the age of 21, and none at all in the 21-40 age group. Trophies for these groups went unawarded.

4. One contestant employed a note-taking technique at the higher speeds. Rather than copy every single word, Don, W4WJ, jotted down only the essential facts and not the connecting words such as "and" and "the". Observers noted that in normal fast cw QSOs, most operators copy by ear and occasionally jot down facts they wish to remember. This technique was permitted for the first time in a high speed contest. In the future, it will allow cw operators to use the same copy procedures in the contest as they use at home.

TOP TWENTY TRAFFICERS - OCTOBER

-by WA4PFK and WX4J

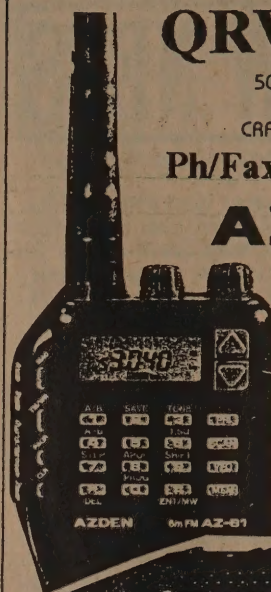
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5	WX4H	744	15	KD4GR	178
6	KB4WBY	502	16	N4RHJ	160
7	K4SCL	414	17	KA4ZHF	145
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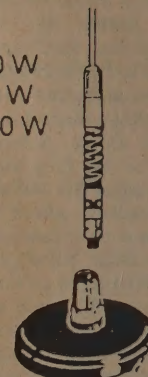
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TRAFFIC HOUNDS - OCTOBER

-by Bill Jochimsen, K4ZK, STM, S.FL

NET	QNI	AVG	QTC	SESS	AVG	MGR	QTC/QNI
QFN	804	13.0	539	8.7	62	AD4CN	0.67
FPTN	1090	35.2	462	14.9	31	W4SME	0.42
SEFTN	1330	42.9	373	12.0	31	KD4GR	0.28
FMTN	613	19.8	305	9.8	31	WA4NDA	0.50
GN	188	6.1	230	7.4	31	W4DL	1.22
TPTN	507	16.4	223	7.2	31	KB4MON	0.44
NFAN	848	33.9	123	4.9	25	NR2F	0.15
SWFTN	483	18.6	105	4.0	26	K4FQU	0.22
NFPN	1086	35.0	96	3.1	31	N4WMS	0.09
QFNS	226	7.3	91	2.9	31	WA9VND	0.40
FMSN	209	6.7	84	2.7	31	KC4FL	0.40
SVTN	774	25.8	82	2.7	30	KD4OBN	0.11
FPON	151	4.9	54	1.7	31	WB4GCK	0.36
SPARC	957	30.9	45	1.5	31	N4ZMQ	0.00
PBTN	979	37.7	42	1.6	26	N4ZDD	0.04
DEN	396	49.5	26	3.3	8	N4LTT	0.07
GARSN	224	10.7	23	1.1	21	WD4NFG	0.10
SFAN	291	22.4	20	1.5	13	KD4GR	0.07
BCEPN	301	23.2	15	1.2	13	WA2DXQ	0.05
AIN	66	13.2	13	2.6	5	WA4PFK	0.20
PBEN	97	24.3	4	1.0	4	WB2OUK	0.04
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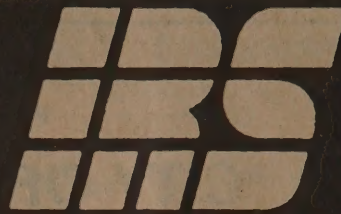
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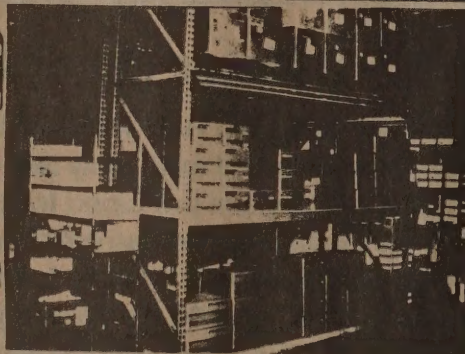
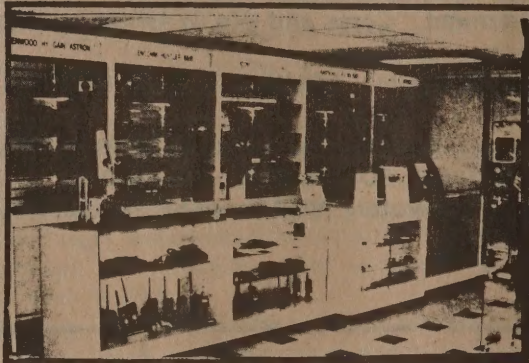
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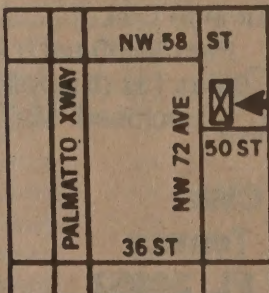


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Florida State QCWA News

Eli Nannis (K4JMH), Editor

The QCWA National Convention, held in Clearwater on October 29 and 30, was quite successful. It was held in a very fine Holiday Inn and the weather was good both days. We had some excellent programs and they were well attended. Some of national charter members were able to attend. Over 100 members and their wives attended a dinner theater function next to the hotel. We also had Walt Maxwell, W2DU, who gave a talk on antenna systems. Members attended from all over the country including the Virgin Islands. The convention committee did a fine job and there were a number of trips including a luncheon boat trip up the Intercoastal. The convention committee did a good job and especially Chairpersons Jay Strom, K9BSL and Blanche Randles, W4GXZ. The National Board of Directors were in attendance headed by National President Harry Dannals, W3HD. 237 persons registered and 185 attended the banquet and many awards were given out. The 1994 convention will be in El Paso, Texas. More information on this convention will be in the QCWA Journal.

Suncoast Chapter. Our Chapter held their first regular luncheon of the year at Mrs. Applebys Family Buffet on Oct. 7th. There were 35 members present. President John Karban, W3GIC introduced Blanche Randalls, W4GXZ who gave a report on the various activities and meetings being planned for the QCWA National Convention to be held on the last weekend in October. The members voted to continue meeting at Mrs. Appleby's. -Reported by Bob Bookwalter, W4NWF

Southeast Chapter Our monthly meeting was held on October 16th. Harry Pilafian, W4SQG reported the new physical problems affecting Al Wilcox, W4EIR of taking his prescribed medications. A nominating committee was selected to submit a list of members for new officers for 1994. A discussion was held reference our member attending the St. Petersburg convention. Andy Clark, W4IYT announced our new 2 meter net to be operative on the 3rd week of every month on 146.76/146.16 at 8:30PM. Our speaker for the meeting was George Henning Jr. introduced by his father, WB4JFA. His topic, "Common Sense on the Highway," related to his job as a Florida State Trooper. An explanation of the new 800 MHz police radio system was explained with its present mechanical and electronic problems. The problems and its solution by an officer of the law was discussed by the speaker and the audience. -Reported by Herb Bernard, W4JXA.

Hernando Chapter. At our September meeting there were 18 members and guests present. Our Secretary and Treasurer Eunice and Robert Gordon are still in Maine. Due to our confined dining area, it was decided not to attempt to hold our usual door prize drawing. Former member Lin Miller, WA4SPR and XYL Doris were guests at this meeting. Lin plans to renew his membership in this chapter. Members were reminded of the National QCWA convention to be held in St. Pete on Oct. 29 and 30. Birthdays: Nancy, XYL of Ed, W1OOR; Isabel, XYL of Al, W2EKO; Theresa, XYL of Richard, WA4OMX; Ed, W1HD for October. Ken, VE3BUA; Al, AB4GD; Ella, XYL of Chet, W1HGK; Henritta, XYL of Harry, W2IWA. Anniversaries of Sept. Al, AB4GD and Virginia; Ed, W1OOR and Nancy; Al, W2EKO and Isabel; Marty, K9EIE and Grace, WA9EKS. Anniversaries for October, Harry, W2IWA and Henritta; Marvin, W1GEN and Ileene; Richard, WA4OMX and Theresa. Bev has invited us to hold a picnic at her QTH. - Reported by Marv, W1GEN.

Pelican Chapter. Our regular meeting was held on October 20th at the home style Family Buffet in St. Pete. It was an excellent turnout and John Edel, K8LBZ, a QCWA National Director and his XYL Janet from Massillon, Ohio was a visitor. We learned that a former member, Jack Seidel, N4AQU is a Silent Key. Don Bice, W4PCO gave the latest Convention registration report. A report was given on the Florida Gulf Coast Convention to be held at the Florida

State Fairgrounds on November 20 and 21. Our Program Chairman, Hal Fix, W3AA, presented his own program on travel to Israel via Tower Airlines. He found it a very interesting trip as he visited the Masada, the wailing wall and other interesting places. He found the bus system cheap, clean and highly efficient. The nominating committee will give their report at the picnic meeting in November. The drawing for the doll made by Gerry Bell was Jane Doyle, XYL of George KD4GW. Our chapter has a Silent Charity; pill bottles that are collected from our members and given to the St. Petersburg Free Clinic. They advised that we have saved them quite a bit of money. Our next meeting will be a picnic for both Gator and Pelican Chapters at Seminole Lake Parkand. The meal will be corn on the cob, scalloped potatoes, rolls, drinks and many awards. This picnic is known as Dutches Birthday Bash. He may do a bungee jump. - Reported by C. Gramm, KB4ZB.

Palm Beach Chapter 111. We really had a surprise at the last meeting. We were set up for our regular turnout of around twenty-five attendees and instead we had almost forty show up. We had to scratch around to get the extra seats set up but it turned out very good and everyone had a nice time.

Bill Phelan, W3AWA brought in some memorabilia from his early days along with his brother's original radio operators permit issued by the Dept. of Commerce and signed by Herbert Hoover. We were also pleased to have Al Hurley, WD4OUD give a nice talk on the usage of computers in Amateur Radio and the availability of information on the various Bulletin Boards accessible in the area.

Pres. Bob McDow, W4KOG and V.P. Forrest Haynes, K4YPO mentioned they were planning on attending the QCWA convention in St. Petersburg so we are looking forward to their report next month.

Hank Gorman, W4RQK, Tony Sariti, W4DTO and Walt Zmetronak, W2MHL comprise the slate of officers to serve next year. Next meeting will be the elections so everyone should attend. Next month's meeting will be at the NPB CC Dining Room at 11:30 AM on November 30. Please come and bring a friend. -73 & 88, Bob McDow, W4KOG.



VP Lew McCoy, W1ICP expounding on antenna theory in hospitality room at QCWA Convention - Photo by W4KOG



25 Years a Ham?

Got A question?

Write

159 E. 16th Street
Eugene, OR 97401



Old Old Timer's Club

"And a good time was had by all." The '93 QCWA Convention is history and everyone who attended is eagerly looking forward to the next one which will be held in El Paso, Texas next October. The OOTC had a very nice turnout of over twenty members and guests for their luncheon on Saturday. Our District Director Bob Bookwalter, W4NWF hosted the affair and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. It's always nice to meet the guys you talk to every week or so and some of the net members have been around for years without having met them in person. You always have formed a mental image of what you think they'll look like and they are never like you've imagined.

We're still having some problems with the Wednesday morning net. It seems like a group from 5 land have set up housekeeping on our old net frequency of 7274Kc and unless we can get started at about eight-thirty, they're already established by the time we get on at nine. The problem with the 7270kc is that it's too close to the Waterway net which is held on 7268kc. Bob is trying to resolve it but in the meantime we'll just have to play it by ear. In the meantime, we'll say it's on 7274kc +/- 5kc at nine AM.

73 de Bob McDow, W4KOG

Knights of the Kilocycle

3910 Kc. Sunday Morn. 1230Z - 0730 EST

Where on earth has the year gone? It seems like it just got started and here it's almost over. Doesn't seem possible that St. Nick is almost due, does it? Well, I guess one consolation is that this will probably be the year the XYL decides to get me the new Xcyr for Christmas. Hi. I won't hold my breath for that one.

We finished off the year with a flourish. After the trip up through Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama early in October, I got to attend the QCWA convention over at St. Petersburg late in October. As you all know, two of our most prominent members, Mr. J. Strom, K9BSL was a co-chairman along with Blanche Randles, W4GKZ, for overseeing the convention. Congratulations go to both of them for a job well done!

After all my moving around the last couple of months, I'm presently acting "Tailgunner" on the net. I had worked myself all the way up so that I was next in line and then I went on my trip. Even all the Snowbirds got in ahead of me before I got back.

Got news at the convention that Wendy, WIUCL had injured his ankle. Apparently he is OK now and is all moved in to his new home, but it sounded like he has had a little problem recently. You might like to drop him a QSL. Also heard that John Witherspoon, W4BUJ is under the weather and could also use some cheer. John's address is Box 516, High Springs, FL 32643.

Had a very nice time at the West Palm Hamfest. I truly think that it's becoming one of the better Hamfests in the

state. It's all in a nice air-conditioned building with nice wide aisles and lots of goodies. Right now it could use a few more new equipment vendors but I'm sure those will come as the Hamfest grows. I'm already looking forward to next year. The Miami Hamvention will be coming soon. I've sent in for my tickets and reserved my motorhome space for the event. We're also having a table in Miami again this year. Don't have much to put on it after the WPB hamfest, but stop by for an eyeball anyway. I'll be looking for you to check in.

73 'till next month. Bob McDow, W4KOG

FLORIDA BBS STATISTICS - OCTOBER 1993

-by Bill Britton, KB4VOL, Packet Manager SFL
NORTH FLORIDA STATISTICS

BBS	NTS	PERS	BUL	TOT MSGS
AA4RU	24	1171	4621	5816
K4GBB	*SYSTEM CRASH*			
N4GXX	2	455	3452	3909
K4OZS	5	292	1820	2117
KA4GDV	N/R			
KB4T	N/R			
KM4DY	2	36	8	46
N4DWY	148	359	517	1024
N4GMU	30	863	2151	3044
N4JTS	1	279	870	1150
WX4J	359	159	11	529
WN4IIV	25	1553	3677	5255

NTS TOTAL: 596

BBS	NTS	PERS	BUL	TOT MSGS
AB4RB	23	1247	10	1280
K0ZXF	0	792	3594	4386
K0ZXF-2	24	3269	5581	8874
K4TKU	0	569	239	808
KB4GBS	11	1492	4655	6158
KB4OAM	37	1226	3985	5248
KB4VOL	26	1442	3918	5386
KB4WUA	9	268	4437	4714
KD4MJV	24	1392	3901	5317
KP4EDL	25	1185	3331	4541
N4HHP	63	2946	5935	8944
N4JOA	20	346	3477	3843
N4UTO	10	1708	1748	3466
N4ZIQ	55	1798	3906	5759
W4DPH	316	6347	6149	12812
W4MWP	15	4276	711	5002
W8DUV	100	3400	5413	8913
WA2LKI	33	645	2906	3584
WB2WPA	20	528	1940	2488
WB4MOZ	4	661	4336	5001
WB4TEM	71	1426	5524	7021
WD4NKZ	100	1623	4735	6458
WD8IBY	46	1209	4630	5885

NTS TOTAL: 1032

The number of BBS's reporting this month has increased, as has the total of NTS messages. This is very gratifying, and SYSOPS are urged to keep up the good work!

Any BBS's not reporting are urged to "jump on the bandwagon." These monthly reports are extremely important and help preserve our packet frequencies and privileges. They only take a minute to compile using the utilities available. SAR112, written by K4GBB, handles all BBS software including FBB, FBBLOG, written by K0ZXF, is designed specifically for FBB. Either or both are available FREE OF CHARGE. Drop a note to KB4VOL @ KB4VOL and indicate type (size) floppy needed, along with your name and address.

Remember, North Florida BBS's should send their reports to N4GMU @ N4GMU. South Florida BBS's to KB4VOL @ KB4VOL. Reports MUST be sent the 1st of each month, covering your BBS message activity for the previous month.

73... Bill, KB4VOL @ KB4VOL, Packet Manager SFL

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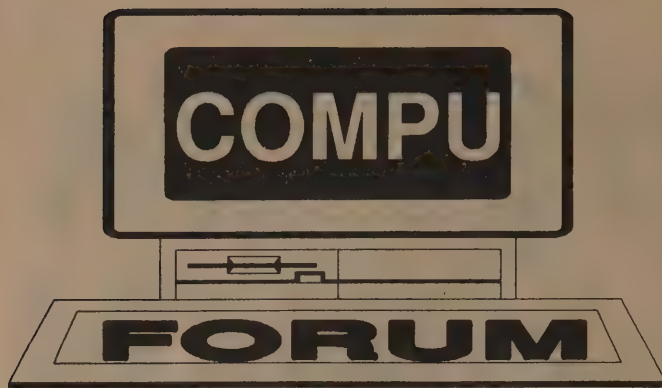
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-by Steve Iezzi, KD4GKE

This Month I would like to cover a common question that I have fielded about PC Compatible Computers.

On the used Hard Disk Drive Market, I have seen several different types of hard drives and controllers for PC compatible Computers. Which drives are best for my needs?

Since about 1983, when hard drives were first appearing in PC compatible computers, several different types were available. Many are still useful even in a new 486 computer. A hard disk is one of the largest parts of the expense of a computer. A used disk could save you a lot of money. The first hard drives that were sold in a PC were based on an enhanced floppy drive interface. These drives used FM Modulated data recorded on a rotating plate coated with magnetic material similar to the material used for audio tapes. The disk spun at 3600 RPM and could store more data than a floppy drive because the higher disk rotation permitted greater recording bandwidth. The first hard drives available were 5, 10 and 20 megabytes in a full height package. They were the same size as a full size 5 1/4" Floppy Drive. The different storage capacities were achieved by stacking one, two or four magnetic platters, respectively. The disk drive controllers were separate from the drive itself. The first hard drive kits for PCs had a software ROM (Read only Memory) on the controller because the PC did not have any BIOS (the chip on the motherboard with the basic start-up software for the computer) code for a hard drive. The PC BIOS did, however, check for an additional ROM when it booted. This ROM would add the software necessary for the computer to support a Hard Drive. The ROM also contained a formatting utility that could be run from DOS Debug. This utility would test the hard drive and low-level format the drive as required. The PC compatible controllers used direct memory access to copy data from the disk to memory. A surprisingly advanced feature that was discontinued in the AT compatible machines. The interface to the hard drive was first called ST506 after the first 5 Megabyte Seagate Drive (obviously called the ST506). The ST506 Interface was a copy of the 5 1/4" Floppy Drive interface with the addition of a parallel data cable to support the higher transfer speeds. In fact, the first hard drives were fast enough that the PCs and even the ATs could not keep up with the disk drive data rate. To solve this transfer problem, the data was divided into sectors (17 on the first drive, even more today). There is always an odd number of sectors and the data can be interleaved. Interleaving means the sector ordering is scrambled to allow the computer more time to transfer the data. An example of sector numbering for an interleave factor of 3 is

as follows:

1,7,13,2,8,14,3,9,15,4,10,16,5,11,17,6,12

Remember that these sectors are in a circle like wedges of pie. If you follow the pattern around, you will notice that all seventeen sectors can be accessed using three revolutions by jumping three at a time. In this way the hard disk could be optimized for transfer to the speed of the computer. ST506 Hard Drives could be installed by first low level formatting the drive. This divided the recording media into the appropriate number of sectors and arranged the sectors in the correct order based on the interleave factor. Once low level formatted, the DOS can access the disk by using FDISK and FORMAT commands. These commands are frequently called High Level Formatting. Some time later, RLL hard disk drives appeared on the market. These drives used a different modulation scheme to pack more data in the same space. RLL stands for Run Length Limited and improves the packing efficiency of the disk by 50%. The ST225 and ST238R drives were essentially the same drive except that the ST238R was tested for RLL modulation and had a capacity of 30 Megabytes. The ST225 disk could store only 20 Megabytes. When the AT Compatible computers appeared on the market, they supported a hard disk in the installed BIOS and the hard disk controller was improved to 16 bits instead of the original 8 on the PC. But surprisingly, the interleave for the first AT compatible was still 3. This is because the AT computers did away with the direct memory access design and replaced it with an inferior computer controlled interface. The computer now had to move the data using software instead of the controller just copying the data directly into memory. AT compatible controllers still supported the same ST506 and RLL drives but the format software was not supplied with the computer. A dealer typically had a copy and he would gladly format your drive for a fee. Clone computers thankfully provided formatting software in the motherboard as well as some other nice touches that really helped them gain market share. Modern hard drives are now based on interface rather than modulation type because the controller is built into the hard drive. The IDE (Integrated Device Electronics) drives are nothing more than the AT compatible controller and the hard drive all in the disk package. The IDE interface card is a simple buffer between the computer bus and the drive. IDE drives use different forms of data storage schemes as decided by the manufacturer. The interface between the drive and the controller is inside the disk and of no concern to us anymore. SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) are similar to the IDE drives in that the drive and controller are combined. The SCSI drive is to the Apple Macintosh as the IDE drive is to the PC. Compatibles can still use SCSI drives but they require a converter card that has an additional ROM program. SCSI drives tend to cost more because they require the additional controller and may not perform as well as an IDE drive because the extra software to communicate with the drive may not be supported by all applications. Current motherboards using 486 chips support a high speed 32 bit interface like VESA or EISA (Enhanced Industry Standard Architecture) and can access hard disks much faster than the conventional IDE interface. Special hard disk controllers can be purchased for the die-hard power user that can transfer data as much as four times faster than an IDE drive. These controllers typically use SCSI-2 or Fast SCSI-2 interfaces

Continued on page 24



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SILENT KEYS

We regret to report the passing of the following Florida Amateur Radio Operators. Please notify FLORIDA SKIP of any silent keys in your area.

N4OOF - Paul Funk, Jacksonville
K4HE - Norman R. Weible, 85, North Palm Beach
KA4MIM - Ken Favorite, Leesburg
W2HWR - William A. Horn, Palm Coast
K4BZS - Ken W. Farwell, Live Oak
WA4KLW - Bernard W. Glassen, Tampa
W4MGO - Graham G. Berry Sr., Ormond Beach
W4NMS - Robert Woerner, Brandon
WA4UQD - Robert N. Willey Jr., Okeechobee
N4UTI - James J. Sauls, Tallahassee
K4YS - Russell K. Forsyth, Dunnellon
WB8ZDO - Harold R. Hall, Sebring

HAMS ASSIST IN QUAKE RELIEF

An Associated Press story following the recent earthquake in India lauded Amateur Radio operators for providing the only communications in remote areas. Here's how *The New York Times* ran it:

"In rural India, where the nearest working phone can be 25 miles away, amateur radio operators have cobbled together a communications network to help earthquake victims.

"Twenty-six ham radio operators have set up a network to help coordinate relief efforts for the 120,000 people left homeless by the earthquake on September 30."

"The first thing we need after any calamity is communications, which are dismal in India," said Sirama Suri (VU2MY - ed.) of the National Institute of Amateur Radio.

"In rural areas, the telephone system is primitive. From Killari, a village of 15,000 people that was leveled, the nearest long-distance phone line is 25 miles away in the town of Latur."

"Police radios in the villages have a short range and often do not work. Roads between many villages are just dirt tracks for bullock carts."

"Using a makeshift network powered by truck batteries and stretched across several villages, the ham radio operators have been able to relay requests from relief workers and refugee camps to Latur and Umerga, staging areas where thousands of tons of food, clothes and medicines are waiting." --The ARRL Letter, October 12

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"SE HABLA ESPANOL"

The Panhandle at a Glance

-by "Matt" Matthew, KC4RKJ

A while ago I did a piece on obtaining a license with your Amateur call sign on it. My wife has one on our car and it is especially great in one way. With the call sign on the car, you can remember the license number on the car. My van doesn't have my call sign on it, and if my life depended on it I could not tell you even one digit or letter that is on it.

In a more serious vein, that license plate indicates that you are an amateur radio operator capable of assisting in emergencies with communications. You can be readily identified by police, fire departments or by ordinary citizens. It may be a simple call to obtain gasoline or get assistance for a motorist whose car has broken down.

You may call a report of a fire or an accident which requires professional help quickly. Your action may save a life.

Remember taking an active part in an emergency is not just the obligation only of those who are active in ARES, MARS, or RACES.

For my birthday, we decided to get a call sign plate for my antique one-ton van. Since I am in the pipeline for one, I figured that I might include the information I have obtained during the process.

The fee for the license fee depends on the weight of the vehicle as listed below:

Weight lbs.	Special Fee	Amateur Call
up to 2499	\$37.05	+\$5.00
2500-3499	45.05	+\$5.00
3500 & up	\$55.05	+\$5.00

With this information you can see that my cost would be \$55.05 + 5.00 for a total of \$60.05.

In my situation, I had to pay for my regular license for a November change of licensed year. We were told to go ahead and pay the normal fee for the next year, and then, when my license arrives, I go down to the tax office and get a refund.

As for the time element, well I'm still waiting. The estimated delivery time is given as 60 to 90 days (give or take an eternity).

As for the form you will need, it has, in the upper left hand corner, the code shown below:

HSMV83041 (REV 12/84)s -- however some may have a later date of 12/91.

I would not suggest using the form shown but rather use it as a guide so you will not be caught unprepared.

Please note that you must submit the application with a copy of your current Florida vehicle Registration Certificate, proof of insurance in the form of a copy of your insurance card, or binder and remittance including mail fee as noted on the attached License Plate Rate Sheet. Don't forget to submit a copy of your Amateur license. To obtain the correct forms you can contact Tallahassee as seen on top of the sample form shown or you can check with your local tax agent to see if they have all the paperwork needed.

Many like having their call sign on the car and others fear that it is an advertisement to crooks. I guess it will depend on your desire for recognition versus the advertisement that you have radios on board. My thought is that the antenna is what attracts interest to the bad guys. It's your choice and with or without the plates, may the bands be favorable while

operating mobile.

I checked with the Tallahassee office at (904) 488-4127. If you call, you will get a recorded presentation but you will eventually have to push 1 to get a human. The people I talked to were very friendly and helpful.

It is almost time for Santa to visit. Does he know the truth about you? Well, no matter what, Christmas is upon us and its spirit is what is important. The look on the faces, especially of the very young, is often the best gift you can get. That wide-eyed expression of awe on their faces is what Christmas is all about.

We hope all of you will get that new station with all the do-dads and that special antenna you want.

Have a very, very wonderful Holiday Season. 73.

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
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APPLICATION FOR
AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE PLATE

Official Use Only
License Plate # _____

I, _____ certify that I am a
bona fide resident of the State of Florida

State Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I further certify that I am the holder of an unrevoked
and unexpired official Amateur Radio license by the
Federal Communications Commission dated _____
and assigned call letters _____ and
make application for same to be displayed on the following
described vehicle:

Current Driver's License Number	Year of Make	Make of Vehicle	Current Florida Tag Number
Florida Title Number	Identification Number	Type of Vehicle	Weight of Vehicle

Signed _____
Licensed Amateur Radio Operator

* Along with the completed application it is necessary that you submit a copy of your current Florida Vehicle Registration Certificate, proof of insurance in the form of a copy of your insurance card, policy or binder and remittance including mail fee as noted on the attached License Plate Rate Sheet and \$1.00 Special Amateur Radio License plate fee.

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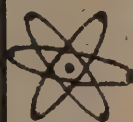
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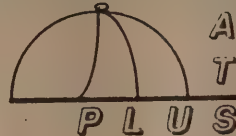
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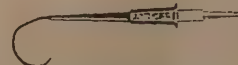
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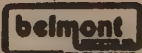
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Bob Bookwalter, W4NWF, District Director of OOTC and
Andy Clark, W4IYT, Editor/Publisher of Florida Skip at
1993 QCWA Convention at St. Pete. - Photo by W4KOG

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PALM BEACH PACKET GROUP PACKET MAPS

The Palm Beach Packet Group Packet Maps updated October 12, 1993 are available by sending a SASE and a quarter to FLORIDA SKIP, Suite 224, 1280 Sarno Road, Melbourne, FL 32935.

These are currently the 8-1/2 X 11" size and the large size maps (11 X 17") are in production and will be available soon.

A lot of effort goes into the preparation of the packet maps and the group is deserving of your cooperation and support. Keep them apprised of any changes, deletions or corrections so they can continue to produce an accurate a packet map as possible.

The Palm Beach Packet Group is a non profit organization dedicated to the advancement of Amateur Packet Radio. For more information or membership information please write to:

Palm Beach Packet Group
PO Box 1392

Boca Raton, FL 33429

HIGH SPEED CODE PRACTICE ON THE AIR

Ted Herrman, AE8G of Lake Worth conducts high-speed code practice on Monday and Thursday evenings at 0100Z - 7.022MHz plus or minus a k or so.

THE READERS WRITE

One of many requests

From Lyle Farmer - Tavares

...would like to ask if it would be possible to list a contact person or phone number for the hamfest listings so they could be contacted for table space and tickets.

Dear Lyle - I made an appeal in my MESSAGE FROM M.E. for all hamfest honchos to send me a phone number and contact person for you and at least a dozen other callers and writers. No tellin' how many other people want the same! //ger

One of several calls

I received several calls informing me that the phone number for FLORIDA SKIP on Tape for the Visually Impaired, was not in service. When I tried, I too found the same and attempts to get a listing from 800 information showed no listing. I then called Dorothy Minor who is supervisor for the Library for the Blind and she said that their 800 number was changed but they were having problems getting it officially listed. The new number is 1-800-226-6075.



NO-THEORY PETITIONS DENIED

The FCC has denied the petition by Scott Leyshon, WA2EQF, to eliminate written examinations for amateur operator licenses. At the same time the Commission denied a petition by Vincent Biancomano, WB2EZG, which, although it did not advocate a "no written test" license, did, the FCC said, concur in all other respects with Leyshon's proposal. Leyshon's petition, filed April 19th of this year argued that current written examinations place a premium on FCC rules over technical content. No comments were received on his petition!

Biancomano's petition, like Leyshon's, was characterized by the FCC as proposing that the Commission state a goal of the Amateur Service as being either a technical or non-technical service. The FCC said that of the 170 questions that appear on examinations for amateur operator licenses, "only" (their word) 46 concern "rules and operating procedures," while 124 concern "contemporary technical matters." The Commission said it did not believe that present examinations place an unjustified premium on rules.

The FCC said that amateurs have over the years expressed the view that they agree with the current statement of the purposes of amateur radio as found in the FCC rules, and the FCC concurs.

-WESTLINK Report, September 15



FLORIDA ARMY MARS NEWS

-by Lorraine S. Matthew/AAA9PR

Florida Army MARS will be participating in the Army MARS public relations campaign Operation: Holidays along with all of Army MARS worldwide.

Army MARS everywhere will, during this holiday season, reach out and teach someone the benefits and services offered by Amateur Radio in general and Army MARS in particular. Army MARS everywhere will, during this holiday season, encourage military personnel and their families, friends, and loved ones to send messages home and abroad using the Army MARS traffic system. The soldiers and the public hear much about the phone patch services for which MARS has become famous; however, phone patches can only be initiated from overseas MARS stations to the United States. There is no opportunity to operate in reverse. MARSgrams fill this gap very, very well. This is the message of *Operation: Holidays*.

Operation: Holidays is a nationwide public relations campaign designed to promote the use of radiograms by the general public. This MARS sponsored campaign is unusual in its scope because it includes the National Traffic System instead of only the MARS traffic system. The National Traffic System is nationwide, while MARS extends its scope and invitation to military personnel and families worldwide. By working together, MARS and all of Amateur Radio have much to gain.

The campaign proposal urges all Amateurs and MARS members to promote the idea of having the public send radiograms during this holiday season. People everywhere could supplement the usual sending of greeting cards with radio traffic instead. The senders and the recipients, both, would enjoy the different approach and the maintenance of friendships via high tech communications. These services are absolutely FREE. There is no better offer to be had.

Both the National Traffic System (NTS) and MARS are available for the sending of these messages. Both services are available all year long and not just during the holidays or during national crises. NTS handles message traffic for civilians sending to civilians. MARS handles message traffic for civilians sending to military and vice versa. Most of the public don't know that either service exists. The ultimate goal of *Operation: Holidays* is to develop such familiarity by the general public with the two traffic systems that the sending of radiograms becomes a natural habit for people everywhere.

MARS and NTS have earned reputations for being top-notch services. Only by continuing to handle message traffic can these reputations be sustained. In addition to the handling of messages, MARS has a primary mission of being an adjunct to the Army and its communications needs. These needs include supplying communications when needed by communities in times of emergency or disaster. Thus, in addition to serving our country, MARS operators serve local areas as well. NTS operators have similar roles in community service. Message handling skills are essential to

the emergency capabilities of both groups. Only an informed public can generate the message traffic needed to keep traffic handlers' skills at optimum levels.

I had a MARS member once remark that MARS operators are not here to serve the general public. On the surface, this might be true. We, in Army MARS, are an adjunct to the needs of the United States Army. BUT, in order to become MARS operators, we must first be duly licensed Amateur operators. Thus, the needs of the Amateur community as well as the needs of MARS are our responsibility.

This is a good time for MARS members to guarantee that MARS will no longer be invisible to the military community that we serve directly as well as the general public. Only MARS members can get the word out to the public about how MARS can serve them. MARS members have a unique opportunity to foster public awareness of the MARS programs. Most people know that MARS exists (not necessarily what they do, but ...). Most people do not know that MARS exists - even in localities adjacent to military installations. These are the barriers of ignorance that we, in MARS, must overcome. In the light of all kinds of budget cuts, we need public support. Many military personnel and their families, friends, and loved ones are not even aware of our work. All the military bases must be contacted and made aware of the value that MARS represents.

A public relations campaign and a set of public relations officers cannot do the job by themselves. Each member is asked to reach and convince just one non-radio person to use our services. Each member is invited to join this effort to bring MARS into general visibility. Newspapers will run public service items. Radio and television will run public service news and announcements. Indeed, some will invite MARS to be represented on information shows. Cable TV systems have public service bulletin boards on which they will display MARS related information. The radio-TV connection is new to this office this year. Matt/AAT4MD initiated the contacts which have led to a half-hour live radio appearance on behalf of MARS and a half-hour taped TV appearance on behalf of MARS on the CABLE system in Panhandle Florida and South Alabama.

The call goes out to all Florida Army MARS members. Act NOW! Get your radio clubs involved. Write letters to the editors. Submit new items. Get posters up. Talk to your families, your friends, your neighbors. Talk to your community leaders. GET INVOLVED. Call your local radio, TV, Cable stations. Talk to each other. Share ideas.

This office has *Operation: Holidays* materials available for those operators who are interested in participating in this endeavor. It includes a new fact sheet about contacting the audio-visual media of radio and TV. This office has also expanded publication coverage into the military publications as well as civilian. Our soldiers must be informed so that they can participate with us.

For those MARS members who need additional information, contact me via MARSgram, via nets, via mail, via smoke signal, ...

Let's make this holiday season overflow with happy greetings.

Meanwhile, I wish everyone a happy holiday season.

Okeechobee Hamfest

December 4, 1993
Okeechobee, Florida

At the Okeechobee Agricultural Center Building located 1.5 miles north
of the intersection of U.S. Highway 441 and State Road 70

Swap tables \$12
Overflow tables \$10 (Outside, but under roof, first come, first serve)
Tailgate area NC (You must have a general admission ticket)

General Admission \$4

Advanced General Admission \$3

Catfish lunch- additional charge

RV Parking No hookups, you must be self contained and leave by 5 p.m Saturday.

Testing 9 a.m. at Eckerd Development Center one mile north of Hamfest Site.

Make check payable to Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club

Mail to: Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 368

Okeechobee, FL 34973

Please include SASE for return of tickets. Registrations received after 11/15 will be held
at the gate.

Talk-in on 147.195 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hamfest Motel The Flamingo Motel 4101 Hwy 441 S \$45/couple/night

Call 813- 763-6100 for registration. Mention the Hamfest to get the special rate.

Advanced Registration Form

Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club

Reservation Deadline November 15, 1993

Name _____ Call _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

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Tables qty _____ @ 12.00

TOTAL _____

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Deadline for all HAMBARs and ads, eighth (8th) of each month to 1280 Sarno Rd., Suite 224, Melbourne, FL 32935. Normal mailing date 25th of each month. Thank you for your cooperation.

- Editor

SELL - R7 Vertical New \$250, AP8 Vertical with AP18 Grounding Kit new \$125. WANT EZ-Way 60 ft Tower with Magic Ground Wonder Post. Shelly Weil, K2BS, 925 Greensward Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33445. (407) 496-0549 or (800) 645-2170.

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SELL - MINT Icom I-737 HF XCVR; Astron PS-#%M; Heil Headset; manual, original box, in warranty. All for \$1200. Dave KP4AM; (305) 759-1073 Day; (305) 227-7345 Eve.

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UPS. Have QSTs, CQs, 73s, past 4 years. 10 cents each month. Plus postage. Andy Clark, W4IYT, 41 Lenape Dr., Miami Springs, FL 33166. (305) 888-3874.

WANTED - Wilson Antenna sys 33. Sell - Brand new MC85 mic in original boxes. Call Henry Haayen, WD4PTO; 6330 NW 37 Terr; Miami FL 33166. PH: (305) 871-7232.

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If today was a fish, I'd throw it back.

FOR SALE - Kenwood TS-950S with keyer and book. \$2000.00. Collins 30LI Amp. - \$450.00. Ernest Phinney, WB4UMT. 3339 Allen Rd. Zephyrhills, FL 33541. (813) 788-1344.

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FREE - Plenty of good wishes and hope that the coming year brings you happiness and good health. //ger - KC4EHT.



SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST "WALDO"

-by W4SS, SEC SFL

Each year, the ARRL stages a nationwide Simulated Emergency Test in which the ARES, traffic handling nets, served agencies all test their skills for any emergency event.

This year was a real hum-dinger. Thanks to Gary Arnold, WB2WPA, Jim Goldsberry, KD4GR, a hypothetical hurricane was planned and executed. Much thought and work went into the preparation. Complete hurricane bulletins were prepared exactly as would be sent by the National Hurricane Center. This added to the hype and expectation as they were prepared and sent over the air each day beginning one week ahead of the actual SET. Each EC was advised to copy these bulletins and prepare their own scenario for their local area. No one person had the entire scenario. Jim, KD4GR prepared his Communication Assistance Team's (CAT) as per our Southern Florida Plan. Gary, WB2WPA prepared the hurricane scenario including the tracking and weather information. I received some rather caustic remarks from a few fellow hams as to why the entire plan was not published ahead of time. Had this been done, it would not have exercised anything. The purpose of SET is to simulate an actual event and observe how each phase reacts. To say that everyone reacted well would be a gross understatement. All counties in the Southern Florida Section but one participated. The traffic nets were activated and were put into extended sessions. Many CEM's were activated and participated. Each EC that participated had its own little SET operation going to exercise their own plan. I have not seen such enthusiasm in a long time.

It would take many pages to review the entire SET here and space is limited. It will be critiqued at the various hamfests in Southern Florida as they occur. Let me take a few lines to pass out some well-deserved pats on the back to a few individuals who worked extremely hard to make it all come together. Gary Arnold, WB2WPA who put the scenario together, Jim Goldsberry, KD4GR who organized the CAT teams, and to KI4T who wrote the Southern Florida CAT team plan, Bill Jochimsen, K4ZK STM who organized the traffic nets and kept them in session, and to Dick Hill, WA4PFK our SM for all his help and guidance. Will we do it again? You betcha. Wait till next year. Maybe you too will get the fever and join us. Remember it is a joint effort. Just like radio waves, hurricanes, floods and unusual events do not stop at jurisdictional lines.



Wide aisles and air-conditioned building make for good West Palm Beach Hamfest - Photo by W4KOG.

THE EUSTIS HAMFEST 1993

The annual Eustis hamfest took place this year on Sat. Nov.6 at the Fair Grounds at Eustis under bright cloudy skies and temperatures in the mid-eighties. Almost perfect weather with an expected cold front which the Eustis club witch doctors were able to successfully delay until the late evening.

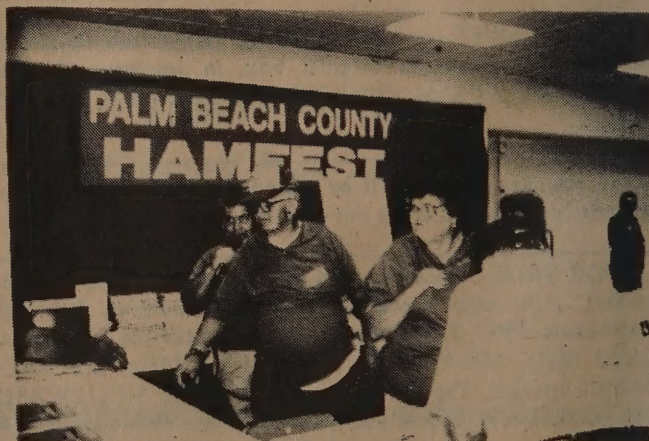
The event was well supported by stall holders, tail-gaters and bargain hunters. My guess was that there were about the same numbers as last year or maybe a few more. Perhaps someone from Eustis will confirm this to the Ed. and prove me wrong?

The offerings were fairly representative of current trends. Computer items, some at bargain prices but with a few notable exceptions. The continuing emergence of the CDROM and the Shareware floppies. Several antenna vendors and the imprinted Cap, Tee-shirt and Badge suppliers. The swap tables offered their variety of "Junque" from the grubby, rusty and broken "whatisits" to some fairly reasonable used transceivers at the same sort of prices that we see at other hamfests. There were of course, the pieces of ancient junk to which the owners were clearly emotionally attached, going by the prices asked! My guess is that the owners merely use them as an excuse to go to the hamfest and have no intention of parting with them. At least they can tell the XYL that they tried to get rid of those "thingame-jigs" over which she has threatened to divorce them and they will just have to try again at the next hamfest!

The PA system seemed to be offering hourly prizes to some lucky person but not me and the ladies at the catering tables were doing brisk business with the usual hamfest fare of hot dogs, hamburgers and doughnuts.

All in all what you would expect from your typical Florida hamfest but with a nice country town laid back atmosphere. There's a sense of friendliness and lack of stress. No rushing off to get to seminars or catch shuttle buses, time to have a ragchew with old friends. Time to go round the tables three or four times with a fair chance of examining most of the offerings instead trying to commit 10 million items to memory as happens at the larger gatherings. Keep it that way Eustis and we will keep coming back.

- John Weatherley, AB4ET



Charlie Newell, K2FNZ & friends, manning the Prize Booth at the start of WPB Hamfest. The affair is rapidly becoming one of the premier Florida Hamfests - Photo by W4KOG

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL

CITRUS COUNTY HAMFEST

AND COMPUTER SHOW

Crystal River, FL ----- January 22, 1994

Sponsored by

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ALL exhibitors and helpers **MUST** purchase admission tickets when table reservations are made.

FOOD from our snack bar will be delivered to your table at lunch time on Saturday. Special **DOOR PRIZE** to be presented to one of our vendors!

TABLE LOCATIONS assigned on first come first served basis. All tables are 30" x 8'. Chairs provided. Indoor tables rent for \$15 each.

TAILGATE SPACES rent for \$8 and **DO NOT** include tables, chairs or electric.

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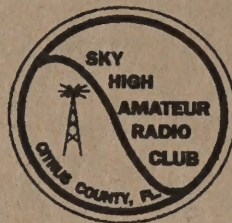
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Homosassa, FL 34446

LOCATION

National Guard Armory just off US 19 in CRYSTAL RIVER, FL. Turn East at traffic light south of the Crystal River Airport on W. SEVEN RIVERS DRIVE to building. See maps on back of flyer.

- * AIR CONDITIONED BUILDING
- * SELF CONTAINED RV PARKING
- * BEST HAMFEST FOOD ANYWHERE
- * DOOR PRIZES EVERY HOUR
- * TAILGATE SPACES
- * FREE PARKING



FOUR MAIN PRIZES

DRAWINGS AT 2 PM

One Dual Band Handheld

and THREE \$200 CASH PRIZES

(You **DO NOT** have to be present to **WIN** but you must be present to **CHOOSE** your prize)

ALSO

Special 50-50 Raffle

Tickets \$1 in advance or at the door
DRAWING AT 12 NOON

(You **DO NOT** have to be present to **WIN**!)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 8:30 AM
Talk-In frequency 146.355/955

CITRUS COUNTY HAMFEST -- January 22, 1994

(Please PRINT Clearly)

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to Sky High Amateur Radio Club and mail to:
SHARC HAMFEST, 17 Dogwood Dr., Homosassa, FL 34446
Send SASE for mail return or pick up tickets at the door.

Advance tickets at discount price until
January 1, 1994

Thereafter admission is \$5.00
XYL's FREE with OM

NOTE: At least one admission ticket
MUST be purchased at time of table rental

Advance Quantity
Admission _____ @ \$ 4 _____

Tables _____ @ \$15 _____

Tailgate spaces _____ @ \$ 8 _____

Total \$ _____

019321

December 1993, FLORIDA SKIP / 23

FLORIDA HAMFEST UPDATE

DATE	LOCATION	NOTES
Dec 4	Okeechobee	Agriculture Center Bldg on U.S. 441, 1.5 miles north of S.R. 70 Talk-in on 147.195
Dec 4	Ocala	Marion Cty Livestock Pavillion Jacksonville Rd, Ocala Talk-in on 146.970
- 1994 -		
Jan 8/9	Fort Myers	City of Palms Hamfest Fort Myers Shriner Mosque 2010 Hanson St, 1 bl east of US 41 Talk-in on 147.345
Jan 15	Fort Myers	Shady Oaks Community Center on Marion St. Talk-in on 146.880
Jan 22	Crystal River	Crystal River Armory Talk-in on 146.955
Jan 23	Pinellas Park	Benefit Pinellas Park Boy's Club 61st St N Talk-in on 147.060
Jan 29	Sarasota	Robards Sports Arena & Fairgrounds 3000 Fruitville Rd Talk-in on 146.910 and 146.730
Feb 5/6	Miami	Dade County Expo Center SW 112th Ave & Coral Way Talk-in on 146.925
Feb 12	Pensacola	Bayfront Municipal Auditorium Talk-in on 146.760 & 444.925
Feb 12	Arcadia	Am. Legion Hall on Hwy 70, 2 miles west of town. Talk-in on 147.075
Feb 12	Hialeah	FREE! At Hialeah Adult Center 1-6 PM, 20 West 6th St. Info: Gregory, KC4IVF 883-5812
Feb 19/20	Orlando	Central Florida Fairgrounds 4300 W. Colonial Way Talk-in on 146.760
Feb 26	Stuart	FREE! At Langford Park, Jensen Beach Talk-in on 147.060
Feb 26	Brooksville	Hernando County Fairgrounds Talk-in on 146.715
Apr 9/10	Gainesville	Alacua County Fairgrounds SR 24 & SR 222 - At the airport Talk-in on 146.820

Send any corrections or additions to
KB4VOL @ KB4VOL
Bill Britton
8703 S.E. Jardin St.
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

Forum - continued from page 12

capable of up to 10 Megabytes per second transfer rates. If you really want your machine to fly, this is the way to go. Most software in a fast 486 computer is bound not by the speed of the processor but by the speed of the original AT compatible Controller still found in the IDE drives of today.

So now that you know all about hard drives, what's best for your needs. A little known fact about PCUs is that you could take the original PC compatible controller connected to an old 5 Megabyte hard drive and plug it into a modern 486 computer and it would still work. The hard disk BIOS on the controller would load just as it always did and work just fine. The older disks are slower and have low capacity by today's standards but they still work. I have seen hard drive and controller combinations for as little as twenty-five dollars at HamFests. For a packet station, these drives would work great. But, If you need to run Windows software and other fancy programs, then an IDE drive is available for less than a dollar a Megabyte. I recommend 250 Megabyte drives because they offer the best price/performance today. Next week, this may change. For the most in performance, consider a Fast SCSI-2 drive and controller. The price is almost triple at the 250 Megabyte size but the performance is equally as impressive.



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